

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani Public Information Officer 213-974-3525 SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov

Twitter: @LADAOffice

April 3, 2014

Five Plead Not Guilty to Long Beach Murder

Five people accused of beating a man to death and then setting his RV on fire pleaded not guilty this morning, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Diana Sequen (dob 7/9/93), Jose Alfredo Zolorza (dob 1/3/95), David Romero (dob 10/6/85), Jazmin Montanez (dob 2/24/79), and Anthony Joshua Paz (dob 7/19/92) were each arraigned on one count of murder in case NA098200.

The defendants appeared before Judge Laura Laesecke at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach and their bail was set at \$1 million.

Deputy District Attorney Rachel Hardiman, who is assigned to the case, said the five defendants would regularly frequent Thomas Taylor's recreational vehicle.

At some point, Taylor, 60, allegedly told the five defendants he did not want them to come back to his RV anymore. On the evening of Jan. 27, the defendants returned to Taylor's RV and allegedly beat him to death. They then set his RV on fire with his body inside, Hardiman said.

Following the incident, homicide detectives began an investigation and they arrested the defendants several days after the killing.

The defendants' next court date is scheduled for June 5 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department 1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch.

If convicted as charged, they each face a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's OfficeLos Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.